



SYSTEM / VICTIM FOCUS



Overview

- **Victim focus**
- **Process for blaming the victim**
- **Factors that promote victim focus**
- **System focus**
- **Methods to prevent victim focus**



Victim Focus

- **Reactive problem solving**
- **Sees the victim as the cause**
- **Focuses on “Fixing” the victim**
- **Narrow approach to problem solving**



Steps in Blaming the Victim

- **Identify a social problem**
- **Study those affected & how they are differences**
- **Define differences as the cause**
- **Implement actions to correct differences**



Social Factors that Promote Victim Focus

- **Unequal status**
- **Distortions of reality**
- **Acceptance of victimization**



System Focus Approach

- **Proactive problem-solving**
- **Identifies the problem as being part of, or caused by the System**
- **Improve the system to prevent future problems**



Why System Focus not Commonly Used

- **Not a quick fix**
- **Victim desires conformity**
- **Self perpetuating process**



Methods to Prevent Victim Focus

- **Dialogue**
- **Assessment & feedback**



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